

MINUTES
Regular Board Meeting
Almont Community Schools Board of Education
November 24, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

President Hoffa called the Regular Board Meeting of the Almont Community Schools Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m. in Media Center at Almont Middle School, 4624 Kidder, Almont, MI 48003

Present

Steve Hoffa, Steven Manko, Nancy Boxey, John Brzozowski, and Superintendent Joseph Candela.

Visitors: 11

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Scott Kmetz was absent, John Miles arrived at 7:01, John Owens arrived at 7:04

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was approved as presented

COMMUNICATIONS

Student Council

Student Council members updated the Board on the Council's projects:

- They are winding up a Thanksgiving Food Drive this week
- They will start a Christmas food drive for the Vineyard Church in the next couple weeks
- They had a successful sock drive at both the MS and HS
- Richmond schools have reached out to the Council and asked them to send a couple Council members to help them with their Student Council
- They had planned to do a BWAC exchange but scheduling conflicts forced this to fall through
- During Conferences the Council provided water and cookies to the teachers as well as conducted surveys
- Mrs. Boxey recently talked to the Council about 'Youth on Main Street' , the Council plans to become involved in some projects

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: AUDIENCE

None

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Boxey, supported by Manko, the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of the Minutes from the October 27, Regular Meeting
- B. Approval of the Minutes from the November 17, Work Session
- C. Approval of the Minutes from the November 17, Closed Session – Personnel Matter

P, 166, 6-0-0

BILLS PAYABLE AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion by Brzozowski, supported by Manko, the Board of Education approve the bills payable and the financial reports as proposed by the administration and reviewed by the Finance Committee.

October 2014	
General Fund Total	\$888,049.87
School Lunch Fund	\$31,484.82
2006 Refunding Bonds	0
2012 Refunding Bonds	0
2013 SBL Refinance	0
2013 Refunding Bonds	0
QZAB Bond	0
GF Transfer in - Payroll	0
PESG	\$5,107.41
CoachEZ	0
Participant Benefit Claims	0
Total Spent	\$924,642.10

Approval of check numbers covering these invoices range from check number 32582-32689 and voided checks as presented: Voided check(s): 32199 and 32532

P, 167, 6-0-0

ORCHARD PRIMARY, ALMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND ALMONT HIGH SCHOOL TRUST AND AGENCY ACCOUNT REPORTS

The Trust and Agency Accounts were approved as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendents Report

Orchard Primary

CURRICULUM

Great news! Lexia Core5 is up and running in all of our classrooms. And thanks to Mike Hinkley's continued generosity, we now have an additional 50 licenses to add to the 100 he already gifted us. In addition, he waived the fee for the training we received from the reading specialist associated with his literacy organization. We were able to save \$800 of Title II money this way. Thank you to Mike and the Literacy and Beyond Foundation!

In Math, we are disappointed to report that the DIBELS Math screening assessment supplied us with extremely weak data. At this time, we do not believe it is worth the classroom time to use this particular screener. Mrs. Weigand is researching alternatives, though all of them cost between \$2000-\$5000. In the meantime, teachers are monitoring student progress through common benchmark tests. They are also putting together a menu of math intervention possibilities, including a research-based program called PALS Math. It is a peer-assisted

learning strategy that has the potential to help students at all achievement levels. To implement this program well, we recognize our most important needs would be time for in-house training and time for organizing the intervention materials.

PLC TIME

Nearly all grade-level teams completed or came very close to completing pacing guides for their curriculum during PLC time this month. Teachers are researching different styles of standards-based report cards. We still need to discuss how standards-based report cards might look at the third- and fourth-grade levels, where overall grades are given. A very PRELIMINARY thought is that we *may* be able to use a blended format, meaning a grade would still be given in each subject area, but beneath the grade, the expected learning outcomes would be listed. Teachers would assess students in each of those areas using a number system or something equally as simple. This way, parents might be able to pinpoint the specific skills that are leading to the grade they see marked. No decisions have been made to move in this direction yet. We have just cracked the door on this discussion.

VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Mrs. Bassols, Mrs. Land, and Mrs. Jones have organized a wonderful Veterans Day salute to our local military soldiers—both past and present. Students will be singing, reading poetry, performing skits, and hosting a dessert reception for our honored guests on Friday, November 21, at 2:00 PM. The building is filled with patriotic artwork, and parent volunteers have done a beautiful job of decorating! Thank you to all staff, students, and community members who have worked very hard to make this day special for our military heroes!

ANTI BULLYING MESSAGE

Mrs. Bishop's Service Learning students and Mr. Kline are collaborating to bring anti bullying mini-lessons to Orchard Primary students. The lessons are student-led and activity-based. We always appreciate the opportunity to have older students mentoring our younger ones.

Mrs. Weigand has also approached the PTA about the possibility of bringing an anti-bullying message to Orchard Primary through an exciting, highly recommended assembly. The STAND strength team is a nonprofit group of athletes who use feats of strength to demonstrate a positive, motivating message on making the right choices.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS

The Raider Reps are leading a very successful food drive through next week. Families continue to generously support those in need with donations of canned and boxed goods. All donations go to the First Congregational Church are distributed to local members of the Almont community.

The bus drivers are also conducting a toy drive through the Toys for Tots organization. Families who wish to donate a new toy simply deliver the gift to the bus drivers as they make their stops. Again, we appreciate the outreach of so many caring community members!

YEAR-ROUND SCHOOL VISIT

The Year-Round School Committee will visit Hill Elementary School in Davison on Tuesday, December 2. We will be meeting with the building principal, as well as two or three teachers. At this time, Davison is strongly considering adopting a year-round calendar district-wide.

COMING ATTRACTIONS were also presented.

Middle School

VENT with VON and KLINE

This is an open invitation for parents/guardians to come to AMS on December 2nd from 7:00-8:00 PM and discuss school issues/concerns/programming with Mrs. VonHiltmayer and Mr. Kline. Issues such as: iPad, Common Core State Standards, School Programming, School Climate/Culture, and Other Topics may be addressed. This event will take place in the AMS Media Center.

AIMSWEB & READ NATURALLY

Read Naturally has been selected to be the program that AMS will monitor this school year (per state requirement, an intervention program must be evaluated). *Read Naturally* will be provided to the identified students at least twice per week; the data used to compile the lists included *MEAP* and *AIMSweb MAZE* (reading comprehension) scores.

Question to be answered: Is *Read Naturally* an effective reading comprehension strategy for our AMS students?

Thank you to Michelle Finton and the following Para Educators for all of their assistance thus far: Teresa Deneweth, Carol Born, Linda Bone, Nancy Turvill, Brenda Leech, Jennifer Fulton, and Clemencia Paul.

AMS STUDENT COUNCIL

Thank you to Mr. Kline and the Student Council members for helping to organize the following activities at AMS thus far: Activity Afternoon, Fall Dance, Surveys and Refreshments at Parent/Teacher Conferences, Football Spirit Week, and Movie Night. If you haven't done so already, check out the new Student Council t-shirts.....awesome!

PLC/DISTRICT CURRICULUM COUNCIL UPDATE

The majority of teachers are continuing their work on pacing guides. Helpful resources (websites and other district samples) have been shared to ensure a user-friendly process. Pacing guides will be submitted by March 1st. The next scheduled DCC Meeting is on December 17th at OP from 4:15-6:15 PM. The next scheduled PLC is on January 14th. **Note:** PLC Feedback Forms are submitted after PLC sessions to ensure effective communication to the Administration and DCC Team Members.

KUDOS

Mr. Brian McCloskey: AMS staff and students wish Mr. McCloskey the best of luck as he moves forward with his personal and professional goals. He has made a profound impact on our school community as a whole and we would like to thank him for all he has done for our STELLAR band program here. THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

November R.O.C.K. STARS: Please come see pictures of our R.O.C.K. Stars of the month in the main office! **Note:** The students are chosen by administration, teachers, and support staff.

AMS Teachers: The AMS deserves recognition for ALL of their efforts to incorporate technology into their classroom instruction. Some of the iPad apps and websites are outstanding to support and enhance instruction. It is truly impressive!

COMING ATTRACTIONS were also presented.

High School

Principal's Update

The first trimester of the school year is quickly drawing to a close. First Trimester exams are taking place this week and the second trimester will begin Monday, December 1st. In preparation for next fall the 10th graders will be traveling to the Education Tech Center on December 9th for a tour of the Tech programs offered. We have been hosting visits from college admissions representatives for our seniors and juniors to assist them in their post high school decisions.

The search for a person to lead our Band program for the remainder of the year is underway. I met with two candidates this past week. I have asked the student drum majors to sit in on the interviews; this has allowed the band students to be a part of the process. It is our goal to have a person in place soon after the Thanksgiving break.

The State playoff run by the Varsity Football Team has generated lots of excitement amongst the entire student body. We have had large crowds at our home games and steady following to the away contests.

Academic Sport

We are continuing the after school academic support program right up to the exam week. We are getting good numbers of students attending. The High School Improvement Team will be doing a review of the program during December.

STEM

The STEM conference held in Grand Rapids was very beneficial for the teachers that attended. As we continue to move forward with the STEM initiative we will use the information from the conference to help guide us.

Athletics

Other than Varsity Football fall sports have concluded. Winter sports practices have started and contests will begin the first week of December. For the first time in many years we will be fielding a freshman girl's basketball team. The new girl's varsity basketball coach has brought a renewed energy to the program and the numbers of girls participating is up. At this time we have been able to schedule 7 games for the freshman with the hope of getting that number up to 10.

The Fall Athletic Awards night was held November 20th; it was well attended by both parents and student athletes.

COMING ATTRACTIONS were also presented.

Miscellaneous

Request for Proposals

We will be receiving tomorrow at 3:00 RFP's design proposals for the OP roof, service drive and track. The RFP is asking for technical qualifications and a fee proposal for all three projects. Hendricks Construction will pick the RFP's proposals on Wednesday for review.

Board of Education: Questions

None

PERSONNEL

Approval of Resignation

Moved by Boxey supported by Brzozowski, the Board of Education accept the resignation of Mr. McCloskey as Band Director.

P, 168, 6-0-0

Approval of New Hires

Moved by Boxey supported by Owens, the Board of Education employ Lorie Ventriss, Robert Smith, and Shirley Page as bus drivers beginning November 24, 2014.

P, 169, 6-0-0

Approval of 3rd Party Coaches

Moved by Boxey supported by Owens, the Board of Education staff the following positions with personnel provided by CoachEZ:

- 7th Grade Boys Basketball

P, 170, 6-0-0

FINANCE

Audit – Informational Only

POLICY

Approval of Neola Updates

Moved by Manko, supported by Miles, the Board of Education approve new policies and revisions as follows:

Approve Revisions to:

Policy 1420

Policy 3220

Policy 7540.02

Policy 7540.03

Policy 7540.04

Policy 5830

Policy 8500

Policy 8510

Policy 8540

Policy 9211

Policy 2370.01

Policy 8330

Policy 9800

Policy 5460

Approve New:

Policy 8325

P, 171, 6-0-0

Discussion

Mr. Owens wondered what the repercussions would be if we did not adopt the food policies

Mr. Candela stated that Michigan is not an ‘opt out’ state so we would lose federal dollars

ELECTION

Approval of Election Results

Moved by Boxey, supported by Manko, the Board of Education accept the November 4th, 2014 election results as certified by the Lapeer County Board of Canvassers. Copy of Canvass of Votes Cast will be attached to the Official Minutes and marked VIII (E) 1.

P, 172, 6-0-0

BUSINESS

Approval of School of Choice Students

Moved by Boxey supported by Owens the Board of Education accept the students on the attached list for the 2014/2015 school year through the 105 Schools of Choice Programs.

P, 173, 6-0-0

COMMENTS: AUDIENCE

None

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: BOARD OF EDUCATION

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Approved _____
Date

Signed: _____
Nancy Boxey, Secretary

Signed: _____
Steve Hoffa, President